

## **CIVIL DIVISION INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Volunteer internship opportunities are offered in each of the six Civil Division Branches. Interns will be assigned to work in one of the following areas: Appellate Staff; Office of Consumer Litigation; Commercial Litigation Branch; Federal Programs Branch; Office of Immigration Litigation; and the Torts Branch. Although students cannot be guaranteed placement within the area of their choice, they may express interest in a particular component, and coordinators will attempt to honor these requests. The functions and responsibilities of each of the six branches are listed below. Additional information can be found on the Department's website at <http://www.usdoj.gov/civil/home.html>.

### **APPELLATE STAFF**

The Appellate Staff is responsible for the appellate work of the entire Civil Division. Thus, the Appellate Staff caseload includes cases from all of the Division's Branches and Offices. The Staff also handles the many cases that are appealed directly from administrative agencies to the courts of appeals. Attorneys on the Staff draft briefs and orally argue cases in the courts of appeals. In addition, each attorney participates in drafting various documents for the United States Supreme Court, including petitions for certiorari and briefs on the merits in Civil Division cases.

### **OFFICE OF CONSUMER LITIGATION**

The Office of Consumer Litigation enforces federal consumer protection laws and defends federal agencies that administer those laws (e.g. food and drug laws, including generic drug manufacturing and tobacco product advertising, and product safety laws). Among the Office's client agencies are the Food and Drug Administration, the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Approximately 30 attorneys handle civil and criminal cases at both the trial and appellate levels.

### **COMMERCIAL LITIGATION**

The largest branch in the Division, the Commercial Litigation Branch handles cases that involve billions of dollars in claims both by and against the government. The Branch prosecutes claims for the recovery of monies fraudulently secured or improperly diverted from the United States Treasury. It defends the country's international trade policy, and defends and asserts the government's contract and patent rights. In addition, the Branch protects the government's financial and commercial interests under foreign treaties. The Branch's workload, handled by over 200 attorneys, falls into five major areas: Corporate/Financial Litigation; Civil Frauds; Intellectual Property; Litigation in the National Courts; and Foreign Litigation.

### **FEDERAL PROGRAMS BRANCH**

The Federal Programs Branch litigates on behalf of approximately 100 federal agencies, the President and Cabinet officers, and other government officials. The activities of this Branch include defending against constitutional challenges to federal statutes, suits to overturn government policies and programs, and attacks on the legality of government decisions. These cases typically seek injunctive and declaratory relief and vary from allegations that the Line Item Veto Act and the Brady Act are unconstitutional to suits challenging the way the government deals with its employees. The Branch also initiates litigation to enforce regulatory statutes and to remedy statutory and regulatory violations.

### **OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION LITIGATION**

The Office of Immigration Litigation conducts civil trial and appellate litigation under the immigration and nationality laws (e.g., asylum cases, criminal alien removal and alien terrorist litigation, naturalization, employer sanctions); and defends against challenges to the Government's immigration policies and enforcement actions. The Office has both affirmative and defensive litigation responsibilities, and handles cases in virtually all federal district court and appellate jurisdictions nationwide. It represents agencies that regulate the movement of aliens across and within our country's borders. The Office is also responsible for passport and naturalization suits and for litigation arising under the immigration reforms of 1986, 1990, 1996, and related statutes.

### **TORTS BRANCH**

The Torts Branch represents the interests of the United States, including its officers and agents, in suits where monetary judgments are sought for damages resulting from negligent or wrongful acts. The Branch also handles actions involving injury or damage to government property. The approximately 150 attorneys employed by the Torts Branch are divided among five different sections: Aviation and Admiralty Litigation; Federal Tort Claims Act Litigation; Environmental Tort Litigation; Constitutional and Specialized Tort Litigation; and Tobacco Litigation.